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Message Text

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ACTION AGR-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05

L-03 STR-04 OPR-02 CPR-01 /084 W
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R 240645Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5147
INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMDWHSY JAKARTA

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 2035

DEPARTMENT PASS TO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (BUTZ, EARL) SN
SUBJECT: VISIT TO SINGAPORE OF SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE EARL BUTZ

REF: SINGAPORE 1871

SUMMARY: DURING HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL TWO-DAY VISIT TO SINGAPORE; SECRETARY BUTZ MET WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, THE MINISTER FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT LIM KIM SAN (SECRETARY'S COUNTERPART HERE), PARTICIPATED IN CONFERENCE OF REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL ATTACHES, VISITED AN IMPRESSIVE AGRICULTURAL FACILITY BEING DEVELOPED IN SINGAPORE, AND DELIVERED A MAJOR ADDRESS TO AMERICAN BUSINESS COUNCIL MEMBERS. VISIT WAS MARKED BY GENUINE WARMTH AND CORDIALITY OF GOS HOSTS AND SUPERBLY EXECUTED ARRANGEMENTS BY GOS. END SUMMARY.

1. SECRETARY BUTZ WAS WARMLY WELCOMED AND EXTREMELY WELL TREATED BY HIS GOS HOSTS DURING COURSE OF HIS VISIT TO SINGAPORE APRIL 21-23. SCHEDULE OF SECRETARY'S ACTIVITIES WAS SUBSTANTIALLY AS SET FORTH IN REFTEL. FOLLOWING GREETING AT AIRPORT APRIL 21 BY MINISTER FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LIM KIM SAN,
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THE SECRETARY ELECTED TO MEET BRIEFLY WITH PRESS REPRESENTATIVES ON HAND FOR HIS ARRIVAL.

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2. MOST NEWSWORTHY REMARKS TO PRESS DURING THIS ENCOUNTER CENTERED ON SECRETARY'S PREDICTION THAT U.S.-SINGAPORE TRADE WILL INCREASE SUBSTANTIALLY AS ECONOMIC UPSWING IN U.S. TAKES HOLD, HIS AVOWAL THAT IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ARE NOT IN BEST INTERESTS OF U.S. (MADE IN CONTEXT OF REFERENCE TO CURRENT PROBLEM OF MALAYSIAN PALM OIL), AND HIS CONVICTION THAT USG WILL MAKE NO FURTHER USE OF EXPORT CONTROLS.

3.ARRIVAL AND SUBSEQUENT ACTIVITIES WERE WELL COVERED BY PRESS AND APPEARED IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE LANGUAGE DAILIES, PRESS CLIPPINGS AND TRANSLANTIONS BEING AIR-POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT.

4. AFTERNOON OF APRIL 21 SECRETARY PAID COURTESY CALL ON MINISTER LIM AND THEN MET FOR ONE HOUR WITH THE PRIME MINISTER. SUBSTANCE OF CALL ON P.M. LEE REPORTED SEPTEL.

5. DURING ENTIRE MORNING OF APRIL 22 SECRETARY BUTZ PARTICIPATED IN CONFERENCE OF AGRICULTURE ATTACHES REPRESENTING EAST ASIAN AND SOUTH ASAIN POSTS. PURPOSE OF CONFERENCE WAS TWOFOLD: TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR PARTICIPANTS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH SECRETARY ON CURRENT U.S. AGRICULTURE POLICIES, FARM PROGRAMS, AND COMMODITY EXPORT SITUATION, AND TO APPRISE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN REGION ON COUNTRY BY COUNTRY BASIS.

6. THOUGH SINGAPORE HAS VERY MINOR AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT WITH ONLY ABOUT 20,000 SINGAPOREANS ACTUALLY ENGAGED IN FARMING (OUT OF TOTAL LABOR FORCE OF ABOUT 750,000)., COUNTRY IS SELF-SUFFICIENT IN PORK, AND PRODUCES MUCH OF ITS POULTRY AND EGG NEEDS. SECRETARY'S GOS HOSTS PROUDLY SHOWED HIM AN INTENSIVE PIG-REARING AREA BEING DEVELOPED AT PONGGOL ON SINGAPORE NORTHEAST COAST. WHEN FULLY DEVELPED BY GOS, PROJECT WILL BE ONE OF MOST INTENSIVE PIG FARMS IN WORLD: 750,000 PIGS ON 80 ACRES OF LAND. PROJECT IS CURRENTLY IN FIRST STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT AND
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BY 1977 MOST PIG FARMS IN SINGAPORE WILL BE RESETTLED FROM OTHER WATER CATCHMENT AREAS INTO PONGGOL, THEREBY ALLEVIATING A GROWING POLLUTION PROBLEM ON ISLAND.

7. AFTERNOON OF APRIL 22 SECRETARY BUTZ DELIVERED A MAJOR ADDRESS TO MEMBERS OF AMERICAN BUSINESS COUNCIL (ABC). THIS WAS PROBABLY MOST SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM OF ITS TYPE HELD BY ABC. ATTENDANCE WAS OVER 200, AUDIENCE REPRESENTING AMERICAN FIRMS OPERATING IN SINGAPORE AND A SPRINKLING OF SINGAPOREANS AND THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS. SECRETARY'S

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REMARKS, WHICH WERE VERY WELL RECEIVED BY THIS AUDIENCE, EMPHASIZED GROWTH OF ASIAN MARKET FOR AMERICAN AGRICULTURE. HE NOTED THAT SINGAPORE, THOUGH SMALL, IS A DYNAMIC AND WORTHWHILE MARKET.

8. COMMENT: IN LINE WITH OTHER RECENT VIP VISITS, GOS RECEIVED THE SECRETARY WITH GENUINE WARMTH AND CORDIALITY. SECRETARY, P.M. LEE AND MINISTER LIM FOURND MANY AREAS OF COMMON UNDERSTANDING AMONG THEM AND SECRETARY WAS OBIOUSLY PLEASED WITH SINGAPORE AND ITS LEADERS. AS HE TOLD ABC MEMBERS IN AN IMPROMPTU PORTION OF HIS REMARKS, HE LIKED "STYLE OF SINGAPORE, WHERE PROFIT IS NOT A FOUR-LETTER WORD."
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